

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9 and 14 were amended. Therefore, claims 1-14 are currently pending in this application. Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 § U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is allegedly not enabled over the use of the term “parallel-coupled” in the claims. Applicants do not suggest that the exact phrase “parallel-coupled” appears in the specification. However, Applicants submit that Fig. 2 illustrates an example of multiple game units parallel-coupled to a bonus apparatus. Each game unit is coupled to the apparatus independently of other game units – rather than in a serial fashion where signals must pass through one game unit to arrive at a next game unit in a series. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claim language would be understood by one having skill in the art based on the disclosure, and thus that the rejection must be withdrawn. If the Examiner believes that a different phrase would better capture what the Applicants are attempting to claim, Applicants request that the Examiner contact either Mr. Glenn E. Von Tersch at 650.293.3352 or Mr. Paul Hickman at 650.293.3355 for a further discussion of the language in question.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § U.S.C. 112, first paragraph rejections.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sitrick (U.S. Patent No. 4,572,509) in view of Lennon, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,078,399) further in view of Ishida (U.S. Patent No. 4,964,638). Applicants respectfully traverse for the following reasons.

Applicants do not concede the propriety of the rejection. However, as Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to include limitations not shown in the prior art, Applicants submit that the rejection is moot and must be withdrawn. Applicants do not concede the representations regarding what is taught in the various pieces of prior art used in the rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite that award information may be generated based on two or more differing non-monetary criteria from said at least one game played at a player machine of the plurality of player machines. Restated, award information may

be generated, during play of a game at one player machine, each time one of the two or more non-monetary criteria is met.

Applicants have amended the claims to claim that a wheel-shaped indicator is used with detection of each position on the wheel-shaped indicator. Applicants submit that it has not been shown that any of Sitrick, Lennon, Jr. or Ishida disclose this claim limitation, alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection must be withdrawn.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are patentable, and respectfully requests an early Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
TIPS Group

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